

## 9.0 GEOSPATIAL DATA COORDINATION

Through Circular A-16, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) directs Federal agencies that produce, maintain, or use spatial data to participate in the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The goal of the NSDI is to reduce duplication of effort among agencies; improve quality and reduce costs related to geographic information; make geographic data more accessible to the public; increase the benefits of using available data; and establish key partnerships with cities, counties, States, tribal nations, academia and the private sector to increase data availability.

To help realize this goal, FEMA has developed a Geospatial Data Coordination Policy and a plan for implementing that policy. In support of the policy, metadata catalogs and other tools will provide access to the data holdings of FEMA's flood mapping program through various portals of the NSDI. This policy will help ensure that geospatial data collected by FEMA does not duplicate existing public holdings, is documented, and is made widely available.

### 9.1 Geospatial Data Coordination Policy

The policy document establishes the principles for coordinating, communicating, documenting, and reporting existing and proposed geospatial data collected, produced, or manipulated under Flood Map Modernization. The primary goals of this policy are to ensure that the Flood Map Modernization Program will:

- Protect FEMA's investments in geospatial data by requiring that data be documented, compliant with standards, and easily accessible to the general public
- Maximize the use of partnerships, including local, State, Federal, and private partners, for the acquisition and production of geospatial data
- Reduce the number of duplicative requests from Federal agencies to local and State data stewards
- Recognize the value of existing coordination efforts at the local and State levels
- Comply with all Federal requirements for coordination and reporting of geospatial activities

#### 9.1.1 *Geospatial Data Coordination Implementation Guide*

To support the goals of the policy, data coordination procedures were established to provide guidance to the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) production process for FEMA and stakeholders. The Data Coordination Implementation Guide provides step-by-step guidance on how to coordinate with local, State, and Federal governments; document and report geospatial

collection; and produce flood study projects. FEMA plans to make the guide available on the *Guidelines and Specifications* Web site.

### **9.1.2 Federal Coordination**

FEMA will continue to coordinate with other Federal geospatial data collection programs. FEMA primarily coordinates with other Federal agencies on geospatial matters through the following groups:

- Federal Geographic Data Committee
- National Digital Elevation Program (NDEP)
- National Digital Orthophoto Program (NDOP)

In addition, FEMA keeps in contact directly with a number of Federal geospatial programs, including:

- TIGER/MAF Modernization (U.S. Census)
- National Map (U.S. Geological Survey [USGS])
- Geospatial One-Stop (USGS)
- Height Modernization (National Geodetic Survey/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA])
- National Hurricane Center (NOAA)

FEMA's Flood Map Modernization Program may pursue formalizing closer relationships with certain Federal Agencies through memoranda of understanding (MOUs) and interagency agreements.

The Flood Map Modernization Program also coordinates closely with other FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) programs through:

- DHS Geospatial Working Group
- DHS Geospatial Metadata Community of Interest
- FEMA Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Working Group

### **9.1.3 State Coordination**

FEMA is establishing and documenting coordination procedures for each State. The goal is to work within the existing State coordination mechanisms to the maximum extent possible and to work closely with other Federal agencies at the State level to reduce redundant Federal requests to the States.

FEMA has actively partnered with the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), enlisting the support of this group of State geospatial leaders to support the development and implementation of the State coordination strategy.

### 9.2 Metadata Catalogs

To facilitate data sharing and partnering with local, State, and Federal data developers and users, FEMA will support several metadata catalogs. The goal is to have the metadata entered once on the MIP, and then publish the metadata to several catalogs so that it is available as broadly as possible.

For planned projects, FEMA supports the “marketplace” concept in the Geospatial One-Stop. By publishing metadata to the marketplace, FEMA hopes to maximize the chance of finding funding partners with compatible interests. FEMA will use the existing Geospatial One-Stop marketplace metadata catalog ([www.geodata.gov](http://www.geodata.gov)) to publish the planned flood study projects for each fiscal year. FEMA is also collaborating with the NDEP and NDOP committees on a catalog designed specifically to publish planned elevation and imagery development projects after the details of each project are scoped. This catalog will enable a user to find overlapping planned projects and can facilitate data sharing or partnering. This data will also be synchronized with the Geospatial One-Stop.

The other metadata catalogs being developed can be used to discover FEMA’s geospatial data holdings. All of FEMA’s flood study projects require that metadata be submitted along with geospatial data. These metadata catalogs will be searchable through FEMA’s Web site as well as published to an NSDI clearinghouse node and the Geospatial One-Stop. By discovering FEMA’s data holdings, local, State, and Federal entities can save money by eliminating or reducing data development costs for their projects. Discovery of FEMA’s planned projects also may enable partnering opportunities with local, State, and Federal partners.

